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Three of Lake County's 10 most-wanted gang members were arrested after the public provided good tips. One of them turned himself in just because of the publicity.

Those taken off the street were Derek Gordon of Waukegan, a member of the Four Corner Hustlers gang, wanted for unauthorized possession of a controlled substance, unauthorized delivery of a controlled substance and unauthorized delivery of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school; Cordale Handy of Waukegan, a member of the Four Corner Hustlers gang, wanted for carjacking; and William Earl Gist of Beach Park, a member of the Majestics gang, wanted for aggravated battery/great bodily harm.

The announcement was made by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Lake County Sheriff Mark Curran and U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-Highland Park, in Chicago on Monday.

"Cordale Handy just gave himself up after you guys ran the story," said Kirk, referring to the March 24 news conference where the "10 Most-Wanted Gang Members" were announced as part of a multijurisdictional crackdown on gangs and a way to raise the public profile of fugitive gang leaders.

"We were surprised," Kirk said of the quality of tips received by the police. "Not only did the tips come in, but they were accurate."

Curran was also a little surprised, but "people realize street gangs are a cancer in our society and they are only too happy to help. They are more than happy to do their part to get rid of this scum."

Derek Gordon of Waukegan scuffled with police and he was found to be in possession of a weapon and drugs. He was being held in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

A tip about William Earl Gist of Beach Park helped police locate him in Pleasant Prairie, Wis., where he is being held pending an extradition hearing.

"The purpose of the most-wanted list is to enlist the public in the fight against violent drug gangs," Kirk said. "We now have over 2,000 gang members living north of Lake-Cook Road, but thanks to tips from the public, these three gang leaders are now off the streets."

Recent figures from the state of Illinois show a 3.1 percent increase in serious crime in Lake County from 2005 to 2006. In February, Kirk announced an \$846,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant that he secured for a new Northern Illinois Gang Taskforce to coordinate federal and local law enforcement agencies to combat violent drug gangs operating out of Waukegan.

The new task force allows local law enforcement to pursue federal prosecution and longer sentencing.

"That means you have an enormous leverage on the suspect," he said, explaining that instead of five years at an Illinois penitentiary, the felon would face 20 years in a federal prison with no possibility of parole.

Kirk said that since the ATF began working with Waukegan police three years ago they have secured six federal indictments.

Kirk said low-level gang members are now more likely to rat out organizations and help the task force target ringleaders for arrest.